Congregational Church

of Westminster West

A United Church of Christ

October 17, 2021

Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude “Aus liebe will mein Heiland sterben” J.S. Bach

\*Call to Worship ✧

One: Friends, we worship a God who calls God’s people in the nighttime.

All: In the nighttime, when all is quiet and we are resting, God calls … whether we are ready or not.

One: God calls us whether we feel worthy or not.

All: God calls us whether we understand or not.

One: And what are we to do when God calls?

All: Wake up … listen … and act.

One: Come, let us worship God together.

\*Hymn No. 68 “God is Truly With Us”

God is truly with us; sing we and adore now:

praise the One who comes before now.

Here within this temple, here in sound and silence,

Worship God in deepest reverence.

You alone, God, we own, you, Our God and Savior;

Praise to you forever.

God is truly with us; loud our praise resounding!

Echoes of the saints surrounding!

“Holy, holy, holy,” hear the hymn ascending,

Angels, saints, their voices blending!

Bow your ear to us here; hear, O Christ the praises

that your Church now raises.

Source of every blessing, bless the ones who name you,

Let our words and deeds proclaim you.

Like the saints and angels, praising you in glory,

May your servants sing your story.

And in all, great and small, may we do most nearly

What you love most dearly.

Prayer of Confession (seated) ✧

All: Gracious God, so often we live two lives, hoping others will see and admire our on-stage selves, and will ignore the chaotic back stage of our lives. We live as if we can hide those parts of ourselves that we don’t like even from you, but you know us fully. Help us, O God, to reconcile those two parts of ourselves, and remind us that you love our whole selves, even as you work on our hearts to transform us with your love. Hear us as we pray in silence, confessing our sins and asking for forgiveness.

Assurance of Pardon

One: “For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.” Hear the good news: by Grace we are forgiven and set free for new life!

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

\*Gloria No. 756 (as a round…)

Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo!

Gloria, gloria, alleluia! Alleluia!

Prayers of the People

L: May the Lord be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Let us pray.

Joys and Concerns

Silence

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord’s Prayer

Our Father/Mother/Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And let us not fall into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Scripture Lessons 1 Samuel 3: 1-21

 John 20: 21-21

\*Hymn No. 531 “God, Speak to Me That I May Speak”

God, speak to me, that I may speak in living echoes of your tone;

As you have sought, so let me seek your erring children lost and lone.

O lead me, God, that I may lead some wanderers along life’s way;

O feed me so that I may feed your hungry ones without delay.

O fill me with your fullness, God, your overflowing love to know;

In glowing word and kindling thought, your love to tell, your praises to show.

O use me, God, use even me just as you will, and when, and where,

Until your blessed face I see, your rest, your joy, your glory share.

Sermon Living into the Spirit of “Hineni”

Offertory “Andante” Flor Peeters

\*Doxology Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

 Praise God, all creatures here below.

 Praise God for all that Love has done.

 Creator, Christ and Spirit, One.

\*Prayer of Dedication

\*Hymn No. 451 “Be Now My Vision”

Be now my vision, O God of my heart;

Nothing surpasses the love you impart –

You my best though, by day or by night,

Waking or sleeping, your presence my light.

Be now my wisdom, and be my true word;

Ever within me, my soul is assured;

Mother and Father, you are both to me,

Now and forever your child I will be.

Riches I need not, nor life’s empty praise,

You, my inheritance, now and always;

You and you only are first in my heart,

Great God, my treasure, may we never part.

Sovereign of heaven, my victory won,

May I reach heaven’s joys, O bright heaven’s Sun!

Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,

Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

\*Commissioning and Benediction

Postlude “Precious Lord” Dorsey/Allen

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\*indicates that all who are able shall stand

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Worship Participants:

Musician: Fred Gray Deacon: Sue Venman

Trustees: Guy Payne, chair

Minister to the Congregation: Rev. Susie Webster-Toleno

Ministers to the World: The Congregation

Church and Community Notes

✠Our pastor, Rev. Susie Webster-Toleno, welcomes visits and calls, and is also happy to visit YOU in your home, workplace, hospital room or wherever. In this post-Covid-Isolation world, as we all assess what was and was not working prior to the shut-down, she is still figuring out the best way to make herself available. She sets Thursday afternoons aside for church work for sure, and is available at other times by appointment. Susie can be reached at the church at 387-2334 if it’s not an emergency, but the fastest ways to reach her are via cell 802-579-8356 or email susiewt@gmail.com. She reserves Mondays as her Sabbath day, holding that day aside as non-working time.

Upcoming Events:

Oct. 24: Ray Huessy preaching / Fred Gray musician

Oct. 31: Susie preaching / Fred Gray musician

Nov. 7: All Saints’ Sunday Susie preaching / Eric Robinson music

Nov. 11: Welcome Center Food Sale (please be ready to volunteer if you’re able!)

✧Attributions: Today’s Call to Worship and Confession were written during Susie’s Writing Week retreat, which was supported by this congregation. Thanks for that!

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